

PUBLIC WATER FORUM MINUTES  
SERIES 2

January 21, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, attended a Public Water Forum at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 21st day of January, 2010, and notice of the forum was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. The City of Norman is hosting a Public Forum Series on sustainable water resources for our future to explore long term solutions for Norman's drinking water needs. The public forums are open to everyone with an interest in water and Norman's future. Although this forum is not a regularly scheduled meeting of Council a quorum of Council was present; therefore, a summary of the forum is recorded as required by the Open Meeting Act.

PRESENT:	Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Kovach, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley
ABSENT:	None
TARDY:	Councilmembers Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Quinn, Mayor Rosenthal (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

STATE WATER PLAN.

Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley welcomed the public to the second of eight sessions related to the Public Water Forum Series. He said Mayor Rosenthal and some of the other Councilmembers were attending the Public Safety Awards Banquet and would be joining the meeting later on in the evening. He said tonight's session is regarding the State Water Plan and introduced Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, who introduced the speakers. Mr. Komiske reminded everyone of the remaining sessions for the series as follows:

- February 4th - Other Water Supply Options (Reclaimed Water, Brackish Water, Arsenic Treatment Technologies)
- February 18th – Lake Thunderbird Augmentation Study/Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District
- March 4th – Central Oklahoma Regional Raw Water Supply Solution
- March 25th - Use of Trusts to Collectively Acquire and Deliver Water Resources
- April 1st – Financial Condition of Norman's Utilities (Water, Sewer, Solid Waste)
- April 15th – Comparison of Financial Options Related to Long Term Water Solutions

Mr. Komiske introduced Mr. Kyle Arthur, Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), who provided background information regarding the development of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) and Mr. Bryan Mitchell, P.E., Camp Dresser and McKee (CDM), who outlined the OCWP Technical Studies Update.

Mr. Arthur said the purpose of the Plan was to identify water supplies, forecast tomorrow's water needs, and assist water providers in creating 50 year plans. He said the study has included robust public participation and expert technical evaluation. The policy development portion included local and regional input meetings and planning workshops. The next steps include town hall meetings, feedback meetings, and policy recommendations. The technical studies began with research followed by water supply and demand analysis. Water supply sources include streamflow; alluvial groundwater; bedrock groundwater; and interbasin transfers. The water demand sectors include municipal and industrial; self-supply residential; oil and gas; livestock; irrigation for crops; and thermoelectric power. Mr. Arthur said the statewide water planning can assist local planning by providing a wealth of data and information for informed decision making; identify areas where further investigation needs to occur; establish a model for implementation to benefit local and regional planning and projects; and provide tools for flexible future planning.

Mr. Mitchell provided a broad overview of OCWP Technical Studies and outlined the following seven tasks:

Task 1 - Demand Projections

Task 2 - Supply and Gap including a Screening Tool, Climate Change Tool, and Reservoir Yield Model

Task 3 - Develop and Evaluate Supply Alternatives

Task 4 – Public/Policy Interaction

Task 5 – Implementation

Task 6 – Documentation

Task 7 - Coordination

Staff, Mr. Arthur, and Mr. Mitchell fielded questions from the audience and those that were not answered during this session will be addressed at a subsequent session prior to completion of the forum series.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan: City of Norman," presented by Kyle Arthur, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
2. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "OCWP Technical Studies Update," dated January 21, 2010, presented by Bryan Mitchell, CDM

COMPILATION OF QUESTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE FORUM.	
1.	<i>Is the basin study for the Lake Thunderbird area completed?</i>
2.	<i>Comment was made there are big discussions ongoing about Oklahoma Water law, not so much in Norman, but as it deals with agriculture and owners of land in the rural areas. Where does that stand and will it change significantly?</i>
3.	<i>What is the timeframe for some of the legislative workgroup issues?</i>
4.	<i>Is it generally accepted that water reuse is perhaps 85% of the available water? For instance, not much research into reusable water, if we can process and treat about 85% of the water we use, that sounds like a tremendous ability to conserve and reuse water. Is that something the state is looking at?</i>
5.	<i>What is the basis for the demand projections for the state and city? How were the calculations figured?</i>
6.	<i>When and how did the state get the water rights and how can individuals exercise water rights?</i>
7.	<i>Is it possible to model technological or legislative breakthroughs? For example, a court stepped in and said Oklahoma had to provide water to Texas or a technological breakthrough with regards to water use or conservation.</i>
8.	<i>There are several projects around the state, where do Norman's issues rank in the state?</i>
9.	<i>Who gives OWRB its authority?</i>
10.	<i>Has the OWRB looked at impacts of the Oklahoma river?</i>
11.	<i>Varying rainfall across the state – agriculture vs. cattle. Overabundance of water in cattle areas...how is it used?</i>
12.	<i>How will the specific work group's studies be factored into the State Water Plan if the studies are not completed before the State Water Plan is completed?</i>
13.	<i>What is Tribal Water coordination and dialogue?</i>

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor